Small Animal Executive Board Special Meeting  7/28/15

Called to order by President Denise Shears at 12:35 pm.

Pledges were recited

Present was: President Denise Shears, Vice President Kim Abbas, Treasurer Corey Cuddie, Secretary Julie Jines, 4-H Coordinator Jessica Hufford, Barn Superintendent Claudia Whitmer, also present was Jeremy Cuddie, Fred and Carrie Shaver.

Meeting was called to order regarding issues with broiler project birds of Dawson Shaver. The board requested Corey and Jeremy Cuddie to explain the situation leading to the questioning of the birds. Corey explained when Dawson's birds were dropped off to be taken for processing they were separated two in each cage. When asked if the birds could be put together, she was told they would not recommend it because the birds would fight. Upon further inspection Corey noticed two birds appeared more mature when compared to the other birds for the broiler project. The one was a rooster with a well developed comb and waddle. Corey took a photo of the birds and forwarded it to Claudia questioning what to do. Claudia responded with having the birds processed and having the issue addressed at fair.

When Jeremy and Corey got to the meat processing plant they spoke with both the processor and their USDA Inspector. Both parties said the birds did not appear to be from the same project. Their appearance led them to believe the birds were older. Corey and Jeremy watched as the bird were processed verifying the tags from the cages stayed with the birds. At the end of process, those two birds were weighed at 8.86 lbs and 7.46 lbs while the average birds from the project were between 4-6 lbs.

Our current contest does not include weight, but due to the change in 2015 and not allowing the birds to be present for judging weights will be used to determine the winner of the broiler project.

Jeremy said Fred approached him within the last three weeks to see if Jeremy has suggestions on feed to help put more weight on the birds. Jeremy recommended adding non medicated turkey feed because it has a higher protein value.

The day the birds were brought to the freezer Fred asked Jeremy about the weights, Jeremy avoided comment and Fred proceeded to tell Jeremy he separated two birds to try the turkey feed.

Kristi Simerau approached Claudia about hearing of a situation regarding the small animal barn. Claudia explained there was a discrepancy in weight on Dawson's birds and the executive board would be meeting to determine what to do.

Sunday evening Denise Shears, Kim Abbas and Corey Cuddie met and discussed the situation, having already spoken with Julie, made the decision to present Fred and Carrie Shaver with a letter explaining the executive board's standing on the event, contest and auction.
Sunday night Fred approached Jeremy in the goat barn and confronted Jeremy about the birds. He knew the details of the private board conversation and accused Jeremy and Corey of unethical behavior.

Jeremy, Corey, Fred and Carrie met in the fair board office to try and talk things through. It became a heated attack and Jeremy offered his resignation to the fair board.

Jessica was approached Monday morning upon arriving at the fair grounds that a resolution committee needed to meet to discuss the broiler project and Dawson's participation. Upon review of both the fair book rules and small animal association bylaws it was discovered that the Small Animal Association governs the auction for small animal projects. Therefore no resolution committee was or Leaders Council to address the issues at hand.

A motion was made to not allow Dawson Shaver to use the two birds towards his broiler project due to the inconsistency in weights and appearance compared to other birds in the contest, but be allowed to sell the two birds that fell in project average weights and for Dawson to be allowed to show and sell other projects in the small animal auction. Motion made by Denise, Second by Kim, Motion carried with Corey abstaining from vote.

Corey and Jeremy left the meeting and Fred and Carrie were invited in.

Denise asked Fred what was going on in regards to Dawson's project.

Fred responded by explaining he had received 15 phone calls Sunday evening telling him the executive board met and Dawson was being thrown out of small animals and would not be allowed to participate. He was told the small animal executive board was writing a letter and throwing it on his desk Monday morning. That was when he found Jeremy to find out the details of what was going on.

Fred said when he put the birds in the cages to take them to Cuddies' he noticed a slight difference in weights. Fred said he had asked Jeremy about feed to fatten his birds up and he said Jeremy told him non medicated turkey feed and goat feed. He commented that Javin Cuddie always has the biggest and best birds at fair.

Fred was asked about the appearance of the birds and he said he didn't notice a difference. He saw the photo sent to Claudia and he questioned if the birds had been mixed up?

Carrie mentioned they were not aware that turkeys could be purchased earlier (giving a longer growth period).

Fred said he keeps all of his birds separated at his house. Those not looking healthy, or more aggressive birds as well as species are separated.

Fred asked if it was possible the birds were switched? The process was explained on how the tag from the cage went with the birds all the way through the butchering process. Fred mentioned he called Munsels and was told they had nothing noted about the larger birds.
Fred and Carrie were informed of the board's decision regarding the inconsistent birds and the other projects Dawson was presenting. They agreed and were satisfied with removing only the two birds in question.

Julie asked if Jeremy was the only person with a key to the freezer and Fred explained the State Inspector required a second lock to be placed on the freezer for safety and security and he had the key to the second lock. He and Jeremy will open the freezer together the night of the auction.

A motion to adjourn was made by Julie Jines, Seconded by Kim Abbas, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Jines, Secretary